**Title: Living the Victorious Christian Life – Breastplate of Righteousness**

**Scripture Focus: Ephesians 6: 13-17**

God desires for us as believers to live and operate in the victory that Jesus Christ obtained for us at Calvary, and we access this victory through our faith in His finished work.

Living out this victorious Christian life in itself is a struggle – however we are assured that we fight from a vantage point of victory in Christ Jesus John 16:33

Apostle Paul admonishes us as believers to put on the whole Armor of God. The First two pieces of God’s Armor – The Belt of Truth and The Breastplate of Righteousness.

1. **The Breastplate of Righteousness**
	1. The breastplate of Righteousness is that which is purchased for us by Jesus at the Cross 2 Corinthians 5:21 versus our own righteousness (filthy rags).
	2. Protects one of the most vital organs, the heart. Solomon’s admonition to his son in

 Proverbs 4:23 highlights this. Similar to the CPU in a computer, the heart is the

center /brainbox of all our life actions.

1. **What then is Our Role?**
2. We have to “**Put On**” this breastplate recognizing that the breastplate is only held in place by the Belt of Truth – Any compromise will affect the breastplate being securely held in place.
3. We create a lifestyle of putting into practice what we believe in our hearts Romans 8:29
4. **Factors that could hinder the effectiveness of our Spiritual Breastplate**
5. Carelessness (1Peter 5:8)
6. Unbelief (Hebrews 3:12)
7. Abusing Grace (Romans 6:1-2)
8. Disobedience (Hebrews 4:6)
9. Unforgiveness (2 Corinthians 2:10-11)
10. Allowing earthly concerns to crowd out intimate time with God.
11. **The Breastplate of Faith and Love**. 1 Thessalonians 5:8
	1. Faith is essential for this breastplate. The kind of faith that we are talking about works through love and only through love!
	2. Faith working through love. Galatians 5:6. The one, essential thing in the Christian life without which we cannot succeed, is faith; the kind of faith that works through love. It is not a passive faith, neither is it a theoretical faith. It is an active faith.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

* 1. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. When you have on that breastplate of faith that works by love, it will always protect you. It will keep your heart from every attack and attempt of Satan to penetrate that vital area of your life.
1. **How then can we ensure that we are putting on Our breastplate of Righteousness (Faith and Love)? Becoming more like Christ.**
2. Lift up the broken, enlarge the small, and favor the weak / marginalized. Mathew 19:14, Mark 5:24-34.
3. Have patience with each other. Colossians 3:12-13, 2 Peter 3:9
4. Be generous. 1 Thessalonians 5:1, Galatians 6:2
5. Don’t withhold forgiveness. Colossians 3:13, Mark 11:25
6. Keep your promises. Psalm 89:4